



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police to conduct sobriety checkpoint**

The Howard County Police Department will conduct a sobriety checkpoint at an undisclosed location this weekend to promote awareness and reduce the number of alcohol-impaired drivers on the roads.

The checkpoint is part of the agency's traffic safety initiative to keep county roads safe for residents and travelers. The checkpoint will be clearly marked with signs, lights and uniformed officers.

The department conducts several checkpoints throughout the year, in addition to utilizing special enforcement details specifically targeting drunk and drugged drivers.

In 2013, Howard County police arrested 1,165 individuals for driving under the influence. Twenty-seven percent of Howard County's fatal collisions in 2013 were alcohol-related.

Checkpoints conducted by Howard County police are part of the Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign and are funded in part by a grant from the Maryland Highway Safety Office. The HCPD conducts checkpoints in partnership with Maryland State Police and with support from Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Traffic crashes continue to be a leading cause of death for Maryland residents. Police urge drivers to always drive sober, obey the speed limit, wear a seat belt and eliminate distractions. If you see an impaired driver on the road, please call 911.

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